

Group Art Unit: 1791
Examiner: Davis, R.

Atty. Ref.: P1261US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tomohiko Horiguchi et al.
Appl. No. : 10/686,366
Filed : October 14, 2003
For : AMPUTATED PART HOLDING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
MAKING MOULD OF AMPUTATED PART

Ms Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THIRD INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The above-identified U.S. patent application is related to Japanese Appl. No. 2002-304836. As noted previously, an office action issued in connection with Japanese application on November 20, 2007. A translation of that office action was submitted with the Second Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 14, 2007 in connection with the above-identified application. The November 20, 2007 office action that issued in connection with the related JP 2002-304836 application cited U.S. Patent No. 3,962,395 and JP 2003-265507. The U.S. patent was made of record earlier in the prosecution of this application. The Japanese reference was made of record with the Second Information Disclosure Statement.

Japanese counsel for the applicants have been working on a response to the November 20, 2007 office action in connection with JP 2002-304836. As part of this effort, Japanese counsel realized that the Japanese reference cited by the Japanese Examiner

was filed claiming exception to a loss of novelty based on a non-patent publication that was not previously known to the applicants or to Japanese Counsel for the applicants. Japanese counsel for the applicants were able to obtain a copy of the non-patent publication on January 16, 2008, and subsequently arranged to have an English language translation of that document prepared. The English language translation of the newly discovered non-patent publication was received by U.S. counsel on February 14, 2008 and is listed on the attached copy of Form PTO-1440. The Japanese language document and the English translation of the newly discovered non-patent publication are attached.

It is believed that the Examiner may find the attached reference to be somewhat anticlimactic after this long introduction. Briefly, the document explains that when particles are packed in a closed bag and negative pressure is applied, the bag containing the particles is provided with rigidity. In contrast, the subject invention functions, in part by applying pressure, rather than creating a vacuum or negative pressure as recited in the attached reference. Accordingly, this reference is submitted to comply with duty of disclosure, but is not believed to be particularly relevant to the claimed invention.

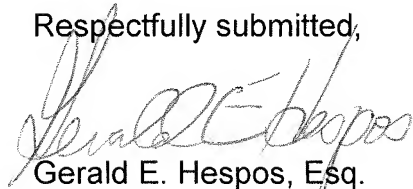
In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(c)(1) and 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2) the undersigned attorney for the applicants hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement is known to any individual designated in

Section 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is requested to consider this reference during the examination and to make the reference of record.

The applicants and Japanese counsel still are reviewing the references that were cited in the January 30, 2008 office action and a response to that office action will be filed in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

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Date: February 15, 2008